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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I'm a consumer living in the Bay Area, and the internet situation here is terrible due to legislation that doesn't allow for competition. A lot of areas only have coverage for DSL, which is extremely old infrastructure. When I tell people I still have DSL, I get reactions ranging from "wait, really?" to "how do you even live?" It's a serious problem. I can't really do my job from home if I'm ever sick or need to be at home for a delivery, my connection just isn't good enough to facilitate remote work. It's ridiculous that I live in such a center for innovation, but the internet infrastructure here is so terrible.

There are small ISPs in the area that are trying to introduce competition and give residents faster connections, but the problem is that the local legislation makes things extremely difficult for them, and those are in place due to lobbying and foul play by the large ISPs that service the area (AT&T and Comcast in particular). So when the FCC makes things even more difficult by introducing regulation that discourages competition, it pretty much is completely impossible for them to have a viable business and grow at a fast enough pace to serve everyone. This was never a problem when I lived in New York, where I had fiber. There were plenty of different companies that provided good service due to the risk of customers churning over to better providers if they ever dropped the ball.

Internet access is critical, and as our technology grows, our infrastructure needs to adapt. That doesn't happen if the status quo is kept, and old large companies just sit on the monopoly they carved out for themselves in the areas they service. We need to fight against deregulation, as it's the only thing keeping large ISPs accountable, and the only thing letting smaller ISPs have a viable business.

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